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Historic Furnishings Report

McCLINTOCK HOUSE/STANTON HOUSE FIRST WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

National Historical Park / New York





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Historic Furnishings Report

**McClintock House,
First Wesleyan Methodist Church
and Stanton House**

Women's Rights National Historical Park
Seneca Falls, New York

by

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Harpers Ferry Center
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ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

LOCATION AND PROPOSED USE

Women's Rights National Historical Park was established December 28, 1980, to preserve and interpret the sites and structures associated with the struggle for equal rights for women. The historic sites included in the park are the Mary Ann McClintock House, the First Wesleyan Methodist Church, and the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House.¹ Primary visitor contact will be made at the visitor center, to be located in the former City Hall adjacent to the Chapel Block. A design contest, conducted to develop the Chapel Block, resulted in plans for the construction of a plaza and symbolic open chapel building. The Interpretive Prospectus proposed using original Stanton objects in formal exhibits in the Stanton House to interpret Elizabeth Cady Stanton's life in Seneca Falls. The McClintock House will feature exhibits dealing with the drafting of the Declaration of Sentiments, which took place in the McClintock parlor. Since four of the five women who wrote the declaration were Quakers, other exhibits will explore the role of Quakers in the women's rights and other reform movements.

Planning documents affecting the use and management of the structures are:

Historic Structure Report, Stanton House, draft, Barbara Pearson,
1983

General Management Plan, 1986

Special History Study, Sandra Weber, 1985

Historic Structure Report, Historical Data Section, Sharon Brown,
1987

Interpretive Prospectus, draft, 1987

McClintock House—ID LCS: 40119; entered in the National Register,
August 29, 1980.

¹ While historical documents may indicate that "McClintock" was spelled "M'Clintock," the modern spelling is used in this report.

First Wesleyan Methodist Church—ID LCS: 40014; entered in the National Register, February 29, 1980.

Stanton House—ID LCS: 22582; entered in the National Register, October 15, 1966.

INTERPRETIVE OBJECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Enabling legislation for Women's Rights National Historical Park indicates that the primary interpretive objective is:

to preserve and interpret for the education, inspiration, and benefit of present and future generations the nationally significant historical and cultural sites and structures associated with the struggle for equal rights for women and to cooperate with State and local entities to preserve the character and historic setting of such sites and structures.

The legislation particularly notes the significance of the Declaration of Sentiments, drafted in the house of Thomas and Mary Ann McClintock, and the importance of the Seneca Falls women's rights convention held in the First Wesleyan Methodist Church.²

The outlook for accurately re-creating the historic interior of the McClintock House is bleak. Unless significant new information is uncovered, historically furnished rooms are not recommended for this structure. The only object known to have been in the house at the time of the writing of the Declaration of Sentiments is the mahogany center table, which will soon become the centerpiece of a new women's history exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution. If this table were reproduced, however, it could be actively used in interpretive programs at the McClintock House.

Similarly, the documentation of interior furnishings for the First Wesleyan Methodist Church is very scanty during the period of the 1848 convention. Although the documentation from the late 1860s could be used, historically furnished rooms are not recommended because the open plan of the winning architectural design precludes the use of any period objects in the chapel area for environmental and security reasons.

² Quoted in U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Assessment, Women's Rights National Historical Park, Seneca Falls, New York," June 1985, p. 2.

Many Stanton objects survive. Since the documentation does not allow for a convincing and complete use of these objects, historically furnished rooms are also not recommended. Instead, Stanton objects should be exhibited here in a traditional museum context to interpret Elizabeth Cady Stanton's three major roles as wife, mother, and reformer. This approach is fully described in the Interpretive Prospectus, approved September 1988.

None of the three buildings, then, can be accurately refurnished, and this report includes no furnishing plans.

HISTORICAL DATA

INTRODUCTION

The original scope of work for this report included documenting the interior furnishings for the McClintock House, the First Wesleyan Methodist Church, and the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House. This report contains an analysis of historic occupancy and documentary evidence of original furnishings for the Stanton House. Considerable research efforts, however, have failed to produce any significant furnishings evidence for the other two structures. Furnishings information for these buildings appears below.

McCLINTOCK HOUSE

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and other reform minded ladies joined Mary Ann McClintock at her home in Waterloo, New York, on July 16, 1848, to draft the Declaration of Sentiments. This declaration outlined a statement of purpose and a list of grievances to be discussed at the women's rights convention on July 19-20.

Research on the McClintock House failed to produce significant information. The McClintocks rented the house in Waterloo and left no known collection of family papers. No wills or death documents were found, although the exact date and place of death of both Mr. and Mrs. McClintock are known. Attempts to obtain significant information from descendants have been unsuccessful.

A few facts are clear. In 1825, Thomas McClintock is listed as a druggist at 107 S. 9th Street in Philadelphia.¹ The McClintocks moved to Waterloo, New York, in the fall of 1836 by way of the canal.² Thomas operated a drugstore in Waterloo.³ The McClintocks lived in the house at 14 E. Williams Street owned by Thomas's brother-in-law, Richard P. Hunt.⁴ This park structure is the one under consideration. Although the exact term of their tenancy is unknown, Thomas moved his drugstore to the block of stores immediately behind the house in 1839.⁵ Thus, it seems likely that the McClintocks occupied the house at approximately the same time and were in residence during the events of 1848.

The only object that can be traced to this house is a table owned by the Smithsonian Institution since at least 1922.⁶ Smithsonian records indicate that the table passed from friends of Mary Ann McClintock to Elizabeth Cady Stanton, from Stanton to Susan B. Anthony, from Anthony to the National Woman Suffrage Association, and from the association to the Smithsonian.⁷ The *History of Woman Suffrage* describes the writing of the Declaration of Sentiments and implies the availability of documents in the McClintock House:

The reports of Peace, Temperance, and Anti-Slavery conventions were examined....

...one of the circle took up the Declaration of 1776....

...a protracted search was made through statute books, church usages, and the customs of society....⁸

1 Thomas Wilson, ed., *The Philadelphia Directory and Stranger's Guide for 1825* (Philadelphia: John Bioren, printer, 1825).

2 Thomas McClintock, "Observations on the articles published in the Episcopal Recorder..." (New York: Isaac T. Hopper, 1837), p. iii.

3 John Becker, *A History of the Village of Waterloo* (Waterloo, NY, 1949), p. 135.

4 U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Architectural Survey: Women's Rights National Historical Park, Seneca Falls, New York," by Barbara E. Pearson (cited hereafter Pearson, Architectural Survey), March 1984, p. 69.

5 *Seneca Observer*, December 11, 1839, quoted in Joni Masuicca, comp., "Hunt-McClintock Notes," on file at Women's Rights National Historical Park.

6 Theodore Stanton and Harriot Stanton Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed in Her Letters, Diaries, and Reminiscences* (New York, 1922), vol. 1, p. 145, quoted in Becker, p. 154.

7 Becker, *A History of the Village of Waterloo*, p. 154.

8 Elizabeth Cady Stanton, et al, *History of Woman Suffrage*, vol. I (New York: Fowler and Wells, 1881), pp. 68-69.

Other than these items, and presumably some chairs, the furnishings of the McClintock House remain a mystery.

Research indicates that the McClintocks returned to Philadelphia around the time of Richard Hunt's death in 1856.⁹ Thomas continued as a druggist in Philadelphia at 701 N. 5th St. from 1862 to 1866.¹⁰ The McClintocks lived at 814 Marshall from 1862 to 1872, and at 510 Franklin from 1874 to 1884.¹¹ Thomas died on March 19, 1876, at the age of 84, and Mary Ann died on May 21, 1884, also 84 years old.

FIRST WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

The women's rights convention took place on July 19 and 20, 1848, at the First Wesleyan Methodist Church on Fall Street in Seneca Falls, New York. Little information from the 1848 period survives about the First Wesleyan Methodist Church. Mary Bull, who attended the 1848 convention as a young girl, provided the most timely and dependable description of the chapel's interior:

...the old chapel with its dusty windows, the gallery on three sides, the wooden benches or pews, and the platform with the desk and communion-table....¹²

9 A notice in the *Seneca Observer* on July 5, 1856, states that Thomas McClintock has disposed of his drugstore and intends to move away. Noted in "Hunt-McClintock Notes," compiled by Joni Masuicca, p. 7, on file at Women's Rights National Historical Park.

10 *McElroy's Philadelphia City Directory* (Philadelphia: A. McElroy & Co., from 1862 through 1866).

11 *McElroy's Philadelphia City Directory* (Philadelphia: A. McElroy & Co., from 1862 through 1867) and *Gopsill's Philadelphia City Directory* (Philadelphia: James Gopsill, from 1870 through 1878 and from 1880 through 1885).

12 Robert E. Riegel, ed., "Woman's Rights and Other 'Reforms' in Seneca Falls: A Contemporary View," *New York History*, Vol. XLVI, No. 1, January 1965, p. 50.

This description agrees with all of the architectural and historical data uncovered. The First Wesleyan Methodist Church record books indicate that the chapel had a stove in 1848.¹³ An interior view of the chapel (fig. 7), photographed between 1858 and 1872, shows the pastor, the superintendent, and the teachers of the sabbath school posed in the front of the chapel. A large blackboard with two tripartite gas fixtures hung on the wall at the front of the chapel. Gas lighting was installed in the chapel sometime between 1856 and 1858.¹⁴ A stovepipe presumably connected a stove to its flue. In 1857, two members of the congregation “were appointed a committee to obtain 2 stoves for the church.”¹⁵ A large block of pews with a center solid divider indicates that the chapel had two side aisles instead of one center aisle. A rack attached to the back of one of the pews held at least one book, probably a hymnal.

The bulk of the furnishings information from the First Wesleyan Methodist Church record books dates to 1858 or later, postdating the convention by ten years or more. In 1858, money was collected to pay the carpet bill.¹⁶ By 1863, numbers had been painted on the seats.¹⁷ The church purchased a melodian in 1861 and an organ in 1865.¹⁸ In 1868 the “Sabbath School received permission to hang the maps up in the church permanently.”¹⁹

The First Wesleyan Methodist Church congregation suffered an upheaval in 1869, when the pastor and part of the congregation tried to change the group’s affiliation from Wesleyan Methodist to Congregational.²⁰ Ironically, this split resulted in the only record of many details of the interior furnishings. Both

13 First Wesleyan Methodist Church record book 1, April 3, 1848, quoted in U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, “Historic Structure Report, Historical Data Section, Wesleyan Chapel, Women’s Rights National Historic Site,” by Sharon Brown (cited hereafter Brown, HSR), April 1987, p. 119.

14 Brown, HSR, p. 37.

15 Church records, “Book No. 1,” entry dated September 10, 1857, as quoted in U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, “Draft Historic Structure Report, Architectural Data Section, Wesleyan Chapel, Women’s Rights National Historical Park,” by Barbara A. Yocum and Terry L. Wong (cited hereafter Yocum and Wong, Draft HSR), (Boston, MA: North Atlantic Historic Preservation Center, 1988), p. 50.

16 Church Records, “Book No. 2,” entries dated November 1, 1858, and December 6, 1858, as quoted in Yocum and Wong, Draft HSR, p. 34.

17 Church Records, “Book No. 2,” entry dated April 6, 1863, as quoted in Yocum and Wong, Draft HSR, p. 46.

18 Church Record Book 2, August 5, 1861, quoted in Brown, HSR, p. 121; Church Record Book 3, September 11, 1865, *ibid.*, p. 123.

19 Quoted in Brown, HSR, p. 125, paraphrasing from Church Record Book 3, September 14, 1868.

20 Quoted in Brown, HSR, p. 12.

sides claimed the furnishings and the building. The record books report that a sofa, a marble-top mahogany table, and four sofa chairs were taken from the church.²¹ In an article on the division, the *American Wesleyan* mentions a pulpit settee at the foot of the pulpit steps as well as a blackboard at the front of the church.²² In November of the same year the *American Wesleyan* noted that "...stoves, carpets, movable seats, organ, clock, coal boxes &c., were taken away...."²³

Unfortunately, this detailed information dates from more than twenty years after the convention. At least one major change, the introduction of gas lighting, occurred in the chapel interior during this period. Other interior furnishings may have changed greatly during those years as well, making it impossible to determine with certainty which objects were present in the chapel during the convention of 1848.

The only extant item that may have been present in 1848 is a communion set currently owned by Rev. James E. Bence, pastor of the Haskinville Wesleyan Church, Haskinville, New York. Reverend Bence purchased this set from Rev. H.S. Hill, a former pastor of the Seneca Falls First Wesleyan Methodist Church. The set is silver and consists of a large pitcher; two chalices; and two bread plates, one of which is not original. This set supposedly came from the old Wesleyan Methodist Church in Seneca Falls, but the exact date of its manufacture or use is unavailable.

STANTON HOUSE

Examination of Sources

The main source of information about the Stanton House comes from the hand of Elizabeth Cady Stanton herself, through her autobiography *Eighty Years And More* and her voluminous correspondence. As many biographers have noted, however, Stanton's recall of dates is imprecise and sometimes unreliable. In addition, Stanton's autobiography portrays her in the best possible light. The furnishings information culled from these documents is not very controversial, though, and can probably be trusted. Because Harriot Stanton Blatch and Theodore Stanton edited, purged, and reorganized much of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's correspondence when they published *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed in Her Letters, Diaries and Reminiscences*, several versions of the same

21 Church Record Book 1, August 10, 1869, quoted in Brown, HSR, p. 126.

22 *American Wesleyan*, September 29, 1869, quoted in Pearson, Architectural Study, p. 39.

23 *American Wesleyan*, November 3, 1869, *ibid.*, p. 23.

letter often survive. Once again, though, these revisions would seldom have affected the accurate transmission of furnishings data.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton's sons and daughters also wrote about their mother and their life in Seneca Falls. These documents reflect the emotional split in the Stanton family. The younger children, Margaret, Harriot, Theodore, and Robert, all wrote about their mother with affection and admiration. Gerrit, one of the older boys, certainly loved his mother but wrote about the inconveniences of having an activist as a parent. A nephew, Robert L. Stanton, displayed a great fondness for his aunt but remained highly skeptical of many of her strongest beliefs. These various affiliations, however, probably had little impact on furnishings information.

Historical Occupancy

Historians both within and without the National Park Service have written volumes about Elizabeth Cady Stanton. These writings often emphasize Stanton's life in Seneca Falls, the location of the first women's rights convention in the United States. Thus, rather than duplicate the excellent work previously accomplished, this analysis of historical occupancy concentrates on the most commonplace aspects of Stanton's life in Seneca Falls. The following pages describe Stanton's surroundings, her daily routine, her attempts to reconcile her dual roles as mother and reformer, and the lively social atmosphere that prevailed in the Stanton household. For a more general account of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Seneca Falls, and the First Women's Rights Convention, consult the references listed in the bibliography, especially the Special History Study, Women's Rights National Historical Park, by Sandra Weber.

Elizabeth Cady married Henry Brewster Stanton in 1840. After honeymooning in Europe, the couple settled in Elizabeth's hometown, Johnstown, New York, where Henry studied law under Elizabeth's father, Daniel Cady. In 1842, the Stantons moved to the Boston area and Henry established a law practice. Three children—Daniel, Henry, and Gerrit—were born to the Stantons while they lived in Boston. After five years in Boston, the winters proved to be too damp for Henry's health, so the Stantons decided to relocate to the drier climate of Seneca Falls, New York. Theodore, Margaret, Harriot, and Robert were born during the fifteen years that the Stantons lived in Seneca Falls. The Stantons moved to Brooklyn in 1862 when Henry received an appointment to the New York Customhouse and began writing for the *New York Tribune*.

Elizabeth moved to her new home in Seneca Falls in 1847, according to her own recollections.²⁴ Her father, Daniel Cady, had presented her with the house and enough money to make the necessary improvements. Her disappointment in her move to Seneca Falls is well documented. The house was relatively isolated and Stanton had to contend with muddy roads, a chronic lack of servants, and an increasing number of children.²⁵ Many wings and bedrooms composed this “long rambling house surrounded by lawns, trees and several acres of ground,” which was “situated on high ground overlooking the Seneca river.”²⁶ The two wings of the Stanton House that remain today constitute only a fraction of the original house. Pictorial evidence exists for the east wing of the house, but only architectural and archeological evidence indicates the former location of the north wing. Because of the uncertainty surrounding the interior arrangement of these wings, it is difficult to determine room use even within the main house.

Because the house had been closed for a number of years and the yard was overgrown with weeds, Stanton used her father’s money to hire a crew of “carpenters, painters, paperhangers, and gardeners,” who “built a new kitchen and woodhouse.”²⁷ Margaret Stanton Lawrence, Stanton’s daughter, remembered years later that Stanton also added “several porches” to the house at this time.²⁸ In fact, Stanton was notorious for her love of ventilation. Henry Brewster Stanton, Elizabeth’s husband, reportedly said that “when he died all that need be put on his tomb was ‘Henry B. Stanton, died of fresh air.’”²⁹ One

24 Elizabeth Cady Stanton, *Eighty Years and More* (New York: Schocken Books, 1971), p. 143.

25 Ibid., p. 145.

26 Gerrit Smith Stanton, “How Aged Housekeeper Gave Her All to Cause of Women’s Suffrage,” unidentified newspaper clipping, Elizabeth Cady Stanton Papers, Seneca Falls Historical Society.

27 Stanton, *Eighty Years*, p. 144.

28 Margaret Stanton Lawrence, “Who Was Elizabeth Cady Stanton? 1815-1902, My Mother,” pt. 1, typed manuscript, p. 22, Alma Lutz Collection, Vassar College Library.

29 Robert Brewster Stanton, “Reminiscences,” manuscript, p. 87, New York Public Library.

irreverent dinner guest claimed that “every time her [Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s] husband goes away she cuts a door or window.”³⁰ Elizabeth Cady Stanton spent a great deal of time outdoors, and wrote letters “seated on [her] front piazza in a big chair.”³¹ In a letter to her cousin Elizabeth Smith Miller, Stanton writes that she had her “piazzas and woodhouse whitewashed” indicating that the house had more than one porch.³²

In addition to the woodhouse, the Stanton grounds had several other outbuildings. On one occasion, the older Stanton boys locked their little brother Theodore in the smokehouse. After Theodore was set free, the older boys were locked in the garret for punishment. Kicking out the bars on the windows, the boys climbed out, slid down the lightning rod, and escaped to the barn.³³ A detailed discussion of the placement of these outbuildings, as well as the playground, vegetable garden, and fruit trees can be found in the “Report on the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Homestead Vegetation: The Historical Documentation,” by Nancy Gordon, on file at Women’s Rights National Historical Park.

Both Elizabeth and Henry were involved in gardening. Elizabeth showed a special interest in flowers, while Henry was fond of his fruit trees.³⁴ Both Elizabeth and her daughter Harriot remembered the cherry trees.³⁵ Elizabeth mentions walking out to an arbor in the yard and gathering grapes soon after Margaret’s birth.³⁶

30 Stanton, *Eighty Years*, p. 209.

31 Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Elizabeth Smith Miller, June 20, 1853, quoted in Theodore Stanton and Harriot S. Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed in Her Letters, Diaries, and Reminiscences*, vol. 2 (New York, 1922), pp. 52-3.

32 Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Elizabeth Smith Miller, c. 1846-48, Scrapbook 1, Elizabeth Cady Stanton Collection, Vassar College Library.

33 Stanton, *Eighty Years*, p. 164.

34 Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Elizabeth Smith Miller, April 30, 1850, Elizabeth Cady Stanton Collection, Vassar College Library; Henry B. Stanton to Margaret Livingston Stanton, n.d., copy in Alma Lutz Collection, Vassar College Library.

35 Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Elizabeth Smith Miller, June 20, 1853, quoted in Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton*, Vol. 2, p. 52. Also Harriot S. Blatch and Alma Lutz, *Challenging Years* (New York: G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1940), p. 4.

36 Margaret Stanton Lawrence, “Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 1815-1915. A Sketch of her Life by Her Elder Daughter,” n.d., typed manuscript, p. 37, Alma Lutz Collection, Vassar College.

Although Stanton preserved a great deal of the produce from the garden, she always had enough to share with her Irish neighbors.³⁷ She “lent the men papers to read, and invited their children into [her] grounds; giving them fruit, of which [she] had abundance, and [her] children’s old clothes, books, and toys.”³⁸ Stanton counseled drunkards, acted as arbitrator in family disputes, and attended to sicknesses and childbirths with her box of homeopathic medicines.³⁹ Her belief in homeopathy was complemented by her practice of hydropathy. In 1851, Stanton stated that she bathed daily in cold water and, in fact, ordered a sitz bath at some point before October of 1852.⁴⁰

This daily routine illuminates two aspects of Stanton’s personality: her love of new ideas and her preoccupation with order.

I studied up everything pertaining to housekeeping, and enjoyed it all.... I had all the most approved cook books, and spent half my time preserving, pickling, and experimenting in new dishes. I felt the same ambition to excel in all departments of the culinary art that I did at school in the different branches of learning. My love of order and cleanliness was carried throughout, from parlor to kitchen, from the front door to the back. I gave a man an extra shilling to pile the logs of firewood with their smooth ends outward...I tried, too, to give an artistic touch to everything—the dress of my children and servants included. My dining table was round, always covered with a clean cloth of a pretty pattern and a centerpiece of flowers in their season, pretty dishes, clean silver, and set with neatness and care. I put my soul into everything, and hence enjoyed it.⁴¹

Perhaps because of her chronic lack of servants, Stanton was involved in every aspect of housekeeping, from cleaning to sewing, from putting up food to caring for the children. In 1859, Stanton wrote Susan B. Anthony that “the house is cleaned. The summer’s sewing all done.”⁴² Stanton described her adventures during the fall harvest in a letter to Elizabeth Smith Miller:

...I plunged at once into preserving in which dispensation I continued until my little closet and every available bowl and tumbler in the house were filled. Any time during that season a man might have been seen

37 Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Elizabeth Smith Miller, September 30, 1853, quoted in Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*, vol. 2, p. 53.

38 Stanton, *Eighty Years*, p. 146.

39 Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*, vol. 1, p. xv; Stanton, *Eighty Years*, p. 146.

40 Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “A Damper to Bathing,” *Lily* (February 1851), p. 15; Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Elizabeth Smith Miller, October 22, 1852, Elizabeth Cady Stanton Collection, Vassar College Library.

41 Stanton, *Eighty Years*, pp. 136-7.

42 Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Susan B. Anthony, June 30, 1859, Elizabeth Cady Stanton Collection, Library of Congress.

wending his way hither with bundles of sugar. The spoons and tables, the knobs of the doors, the children's bibs, the servants' hands, and even your blessed Johnson were all more or less sticky. But oh! how glorious the result! Not the most brilliant of Caesar's achievements could surpass this campaign. Such jellies, such quinces—a magnificent array of fruits standing in solemn silence, each waiting a summons to appear before the first distinguished guest that may present himself.... After this, I cleaned house, then fitted up the children and their parents for winter....⁴³

Stanton assumed many of these roles unwillingly, because the local factories constantly lured her hired help away. Stanton's daily routine without the help of servants left little time for intellectual pursuits. In 1859, Stanton complained bitterly to Miller about her desperate need for reliable help:

To show you what I want, let me tell you what I did yesterday. Well, I arose in the morning and bathed and dressed Hattie and the baby. After breakfast, put baby to sleep. Then I made all the beds, straightened the house generally and put away the clothes from the wash. I next went into the kitchen and made thirteen squash pies. While the baby was taking his afternoon nap, I mended a basket full of clothes, and when he was in bed at night, I wrote three letters and read several chapters of "L'Amour," by Michelet.⁴⁴

Some time between 1847 and 1851, Amelia Willard joined the Stanton household. Stanton called her "one of the best gifts of the gods" and "a treasure, a friend and comforter, a second mother to my children." Stanton states in *Eighty Years and More* that Amelia stayed with her for thirty years and enabled Stanton to accomplish much of her public work.⁴⁵ Whenever Stanton had particularly onerous public duties to attend to, she would call on her friend Susan B. Anthony. However, Anthony's

advent was not a matter for rejoicing to the Stanton children in their younger days, for it meant that their resourceful mother was to retire as mentor and be entirely engrossed in writing a speech for Miss Anthony to deliver at some meeting, while she kept the children out of sight and out of mind. This was often accomplished by main force.⁴⁶

Even with a dependable housekeeper and a trusted friend, Stanton felt obliged by necessity or choice to remain intimately involved in every aspect of domestic chores. Since she had such definite ideas about the proper way to run a household, Stanton often felt it was simpler to do things herself than try to train

43 Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Elizabeth Smith Miller, September 30, 1853, Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*, vol. 2, pp. 53-4.

44 Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Elizabeth Smith Miller, September 1, 1859, Elizabeth Cady Stanton Collection, Library of Congress.

45 Stanton, *Eighty Years*, p. 204.

46 Blatch & Lutz, *Challenging Years*, pp. 13-14.

a young girl to do it right. Therefore, for many years Stanton and Amelia Willard ran the Stanton household without much additional help.

In particular, Stanton refused to relinquish primary care of the children. Margaret Stanton Lawrence described how every night her mother “laid a clean suit of washable blue or brown material on each boy’s chair, with clean, well darned stocking on the rounds of the chair, and the shoes, freshly blacked, stood side by side underneath.”⁴⁷

While her older boys attended boarding school, Stanton wrote them frequently and made them warm cotton flannel drawers, coats, and heavy flannel nightshirts.⁴⁸

Stanton advocated child rearing by distraction, rather than discipline, and put her beliefs into practice from the early years.

I have invented such a variety of ways to keep him quiet, that is ways for him to keep himself quiet. I’ll tell you how he sits now, in his carriage, comfortable behind him, pillow before him. A tiny tape is tied to the top, a bell is tied to the top also, hanging down about two fingers from the top. He has the long tape in his hands which he plays with just as a kitten does with a string, every little while he knocks the bell, then he looks steadily at it until it is perfectly still. Then he is tired of bell & string & I must invent some other position.⁴⁹

Theodore’s piano teacher described how Stanton’s child rearing philosophy complicated her attempts to instruct Stanton’s son. Theodore decided one day that he would rather be outside playing with the other children than taking his piano lesson. The piano teacher appealed to Mrs. Stanton for support but got no real help because Mrs. Stanton did not believe in coercion.

When differences arise between parents and children [Mrs. Stanton] would say impressively, sit down and talk over matters rationally with them; it will have far greater effect than arbitrary compulsion. In fact, [Mrs. Stanton] didn’t believe in compelling children to do anything.⁵⁰

Ultimately, the piano teacher resorted to bribery—singing Theodore silly songs—to get him to cooperate.

47 Lawrence, “Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 1815-1915,” p. 39, Alma Lutz Collection, Vassar College Library.

48 Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Henry Brewster Stanton, Jr., c.1852, Elizabeth Cady Stanton Collection, Library of Congress.

49 Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Elizabeth Smith Miller, July 2, 1851, Elizabeth Cady Stanton Collection, Vassar College Library.

50 Anonymous, “Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Some Reminiscences of her Family Life, at Seneca Falls, N.Y., by an Old Acquaintance,” pp. 5-6, photocopy of typescript at Women’s Rights National Historic Site.

Evidence suggests that Stanton's older boys misbehaved frequently and were considered a nuisance by her neighbors. Stanton herself relates several episodes in which the older boys tormented the younger children. Stanton does not seem to have made the connection between her permissive child rearing philosophy and the boys' chronic misbehavior, but Stanton's nephew Robert Brewster Stanton certainly did. Robert was a contemporary of Stanton's boys and relates in his memoirs a visit to the Stanton household in 1853:

At that time I was still a delicate boy, after my long early sickness, and could not take my own part against my stronger and rougher cousins. I had a new ball; one of my cousins took it from me and would not give it back. Aunt Lib. took my part and told her son to give me my ball. The only answer she got was—"I won't." She then tried her much extolled moral suasion; [she] told him it was not nice or manly to keep my ball as I was younger and not as strong as he and said "Now give Bob his ball like a good boy." The same answer came—"I won't." Finally she said "come out into the other room, I want to talk to you," and, taking "Kit" (Henry) by the hand, with some difficulty led him out and closed the door—to exercise some special brand of moral suasion!

In a few minutes both returned. Kit came over to me and gave me the ball, his mother saying "that's a good boy," when Kit, in a haughty manner turned to her and said "Now! give me that orange you promised me!"⁵¹

Robert Stanton went on to say that he believed that it was this upbringing that prompted Daniel Stanton, the oldest son, to get involved in a bribery and corruption scandal much later in life while employed as a clerk at the New York Customhouse.⁵²

Although Elizabeth Cady Stanton clearly loved her children, she also felt trapped by the responsibilities of caring for such a large household. "I pace up and down these two chambers of mine like a caged lioness, longing to bring to a close nursing and housekeeping cares," wrote Stanton to Anthony in 1856. Stanton complained that she spent all of her time "running from cradle to writing-desk, from kitchen to drawing-room" and "longed to be done playing the part of 'satellite of the dinner-pot and cradle.'"⁵³

Stanton invented a variety of techniques for arranging personal time for thinking, writing, and even sleeping. Sometimes she paid the older boys to

51 Stanton, "Reminiscences," 1916, pp. 91-2, New York Public Library.

52 Ibid., p. 93.

53 Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Susan B. Anthony, June 10, 1856, Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*, vol. 2, p. 66; Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Elizabeth Smith Miller, May 1, 1853, *ibid.*, p. 50; Blatch and Lutz, *Challenging Years*, p. 4.

wheel the younger ones around the yard in their carriages.⁵⁴ Her brain was never idle; Stanton busily devised arguments for her causes while tending her children, washing dishes, sewing, and cooking. In fact, her daughter Margaret remarked that “she had great powers of concentration, and wrote many of her best speeches sitting in the big playroom of her children.”⁵⁵

Stanton took advantage of the quiet hours during afternoon naps and in the evening after the children were asleep for serious reading and writing letters and speeches. She recalls that “night after night, by an old-fashioned fireplace” she and Anthony “plotted and planned the coming agitation.”⁵⁶ Stanton compensated for these late nights with the capacity to sleep at will. She could lie down on the couch in the room where the children were playing and, provided that the children did not quarrel, could peacefully sleep her fill.⁵⁷

Elizabeth and Henry involved their children in intellectual discussions whenever possible. Harriot recalled that:

The Cady-Stanton air was hot with discussion along every line. Our dining table was a platform for debate, our mother acting as arbitrator on moral and sociological issues, and our father as referee in political and historical disputes.⁵⁸

In fact, the children could hardly avoid being exposed to the most forward thinkers of their day, because many of them came to visit in the Stanton home. Gerrit Smith Stanton took a rather jaundiced view of these intellectuals, most of whom he felt to be merely freeloaders. Gerrit complained that his earliest memories were of “rooms full of people and no vacant chairs in the dining room.” These visitors were often too poor to pay their own railroad fare to their next destination, so Elizabeth Cady Stanton was obliged to help them on their way. Gerrit also implied that most of these guests were uninvited but were drawn to the Stanton household by Elizabeth’s involvement in women’s rights. When the crowds became too much for Henry, he moved into the local hotel for a few days.⁵⁹

Henry’s reaction is certainly understandable if most of Elizabeth’s guests behaved like Mrs. C____, described in an article written by Mary Bull.

...one evening a party of young girls (myself included), accompanied by a matronly friend, went down to pay our respects to Mrs. Stanton’s guest.

54 Lawrence, “Who was Elizabeth Cady Stanton? 1815-1902,” unpublished manuscript, part 2, p. 12, Alma Lutz Collection, Vassar College Library.

55 Ibid., p. 4.

56 Stanton, *Eighty Years*, p. 166.

57 Lawrence, “Elizabeth Cady Stanton: A Sketch,” p. 38.

58 Blatch and Lutz, *Challenging Years*, p. 35.

59 Stanton, “How Aged Housekeeper,” p. 1, Elizabeth Cady Stanton Papers, Seneca Falls Historical Society.

We were received by our hostess in her usual charming manner, but Mrs. C___, walking up and down the parlor floor as we entered, her hands crossed behind her, "lost in thought," merely scowled a recognition of Mrs. Stanton's introduction of our party.

After vainly trying to engage the "great woman" in conversation, one of the young girls, in an attempt to goad some reaction, made a slight criticism of Mrs. C___'s lecture the previous evening, and another young girl remarked that she felt that she had all the rights she wanted.

At this, Mrs. C___ turned with a withering glance at the poor girl, and rushing up to her and almost shaking her fist in her face, so threatening was her gesture, exclaimed in tones I can hear now, "Young woman, you are a living monument of woman's wrongs."⁶⁰

Henry provided the family with his brand of histrionics. Alma Lutz, Elizabeth Cady Stanton's biographer, described a scene with the Stantons' son Theodore. Henry would seat four- or five-year-old Theodore on the piano and, pretending that Theodore was the judge, would proceed to vehemently argue legal cases before him. Although Theodore did not understand one word, he was spellbound by his father's display of passion. Henry examined witnesses, laid down the law to judges, and appealed to the jury, which was composed of Theodore's older brothers. Elizabeth decided to try her powers of elocution on Theodore one day, but after two sentences, her son climbed down from the piano and walked away. Elizabeth said that she never knew whether his disinterest was the result of her relatively lifeless performance or a "masculine dislike of [a] feminine advocate."⁶¹

Henry also performed for the children in front of his gallery of engraved and photographed portraits of great men of all ages and countries. Mr. Stanton liked to expound on the virtues and vices of each framed dignitary as the gathered children listened and watched in rapture.⁶²

The Stantons entertained distinguished guests frequently. Because Elizabeth found it difficult to find, train, and keep servants, she trained her sons to serve meals to their parents and guests. According to Margaret Stanton Lawrence, the boys "had white suits, were paid for their services, and took great pride in

60 Robert E. Riegel, ed., "'Woman's Rights and Other 'Reforms' in Seneca Falls:' A Contemporary View," *New York History*, Vol. XLVI, No. 1, January 1965, pp. 51-2.

61 Alma Lutz, Miscellaneous notes labeled "Stanton 1855," Alma Lutz Collection, Vassar College Library.

62 Ibid.

doing it to the best of their ability.”⁶³ Elizabeth also liked providing the venue for informal social events in the neighborhood.

Seeing that elaborate refreshments prevented many social gatherings, I often gave an evening entertainment without any. I told the young people, whenever they wanted a little dance or a merry time, to make our house their rallying point, and I would light up and give them a glass of water and some cake.⁶⁴

For several years, formal conversationals were held each Saturday evening at different homes in the town. Each week the participants prepared a ten minute essay on a selected subject. The presiding officer introduced the essayist, then asked each member in turn what their thoughts were on the subject. The remarks usually sparked “spicy discussions” among the best minds in the community over a wide range of subjects. Because everyone was expected to participate and everyone presided over the meeting in turn, both ladies and gentlemen became familiar with parliamentary procedure. The evenings ended with music, dancing, and more general conversation.⁶⁵

Susan B. Anthony described a typical evening at the Stanton House, which was interrupted by a very atypical event in a letter to Henry, Jr., and Gerrit in 1860:

We were all reading & talking, when the sound of martial music struck our ears.—Soon it was decided that the “Wide Awakes” were coming down upon us—what was to be done for their reception—the House & Grounds should be illuminated, the person in whose honor the torch light visit was, should be prepared to give them a speech of welcome, and all should give them a most cordial greeting—

Your Mother produced the two Wide awake lamps from the garret—lamp & candles were set in all the windows—your Mother & Miss Eaton,—each with Wide Awake torch in hand,—took their stand on the circle mound, between the two front gates—& the Hon. H.B. and S.B. stood guard to them—

Down marched the Wide-awakes with steady tramp, & strait into the gate in single file they came—until our Quartette were completely encircled....

[followed by cheers for all]

Then they marched around the house to the tap of the drum, & passed down the canal way to Mr. Murrays....

We had but fairly got settled, when a second torch light invasion occurred—Soon the sound of music discovered it to be a serenade—again

63 Lawrence, “Elizabeth Cady Stanton: A Sketch,” p. 40, Alma Lutz Collection, Vassar College Library.

64 Stanton, *Eighty Years*, p. 152.

65 Ibid., pp. 152-3.

we lighted up the windows—Your Mother & Miss Eaton waltzed and Polkaed on the piazza while they played—then the Glee Club was invited into the parlor & regaled with pears and melons....

—it is now 7.30 evening—Maggie, Hattie & Robbie in bed and asleep—Mary & Eliza gone down town—and Sadie & I sitting at the parlor table—with nice fire on the hearth—Sadie playing with the cards—& I writing to Kitt & Gatt....⁶⁶

Typically, Elizabeth would tell the children stories in the evening and play games, like checkers, chess, and cards, with them. She also sang and played the piano and guitar. The Stantons kept a billiard table for the older boys so that they could have their friends over to play instead of going to some unwholesome billiard room in the village.⁶⁷

Elizabeth felt fresh air was just as important for her children as it was for herself. When she was pregnant with Margaret, Elizabeth “lived out doors with her children, [and] drove out daily.”⁶⁸ The Stantons fitted the trees in the yard with swings and bars and put “all sorts of apparatus up in the barn for rainy days.”⁶⁹

Elizabeth Cady Stanton involved herself philosophically and physically in every aspect of household management: child care, cooking, cleaning, hospitality, even home repair. Superimposed on these duties were the ever increasing demands of her public life: thinking, researching, writing, and lecturing. Elizabeth felt torn apart by these conflicting demands and even sought at various times to throw off the burden of public life.

I forbid you to ask me to send one thought or one line to any convention, any paper, or any individual; for I swear by all the saints that whilst I am nursing this baby I will not be tormented with suffering humanity. I am determined to make no effort to do anything beyond my imperative home duties until I can bring about the following conditions: 1st, Relieve myself of housekeeping altogether; 2nd, Secure some capable teacher for

66 Susan B. Anthony to Henry B. Stanton, Jr., and Gerrit Smith Stanton, September 27, 1860, Scrapbook 1, Elizabeth Cady Stanton Collection, Vassar College Library. The “Wide-Awakes” were a group of young local Republicans who supported the election of Lincoln in 1860. Dressed in oil-cloth capes and special hats, the Wide-Awakes conducted torchlight parades to the homes of local residents, who were obligated to light up the whole house. Wide-Awake lamps were similar to lanterns, while Wide-Awake torches were coal-oil burning containers mounted on wooden poles. Both of these were usually carried in the torchlight parades. It is unclear from this letter whether the Wide-Awake lamps were placed in the windows or held by Mrs. Stanton and Miss Eaton.

67 Lawrence, “Elizabeth Cady Stanton: A Sketch,” p. 39, Alma Lutz Collection, Vassar College Library.

68 Ibid., p. 36.

69 Ibid., p. 39.

my children; 3rd, See my present baby on her feet. My ceaseless cares begin to wear upon my spirit. I feel it in my innermost soul and am resolved to seek some relief. Therefore, I say adieu to the public for a time, for I must give all my moments and my thoughts to my children.⁷⁰

As her children grew more capable of caring for themselves, Elizabeth devoted more and more of her time to her reform efforts. During most of her years in Seneca Falls, however, Elizabeth Cady Stanton performed a stress-filled balancing act of private responsibilities and public commitments.

Documentary Evidence of Original Furnishings

The evidence presented in this section consists of written documentation found in Elizabeth Cady Stanton's diary, correspondence, and other writings, as well as the correspondence and writings of friends and family who lived in or visited the house in Seneca Falls.

Yard and Garden

The evidence concerning Stanton's yard and garden is much more complete than the evidence for the interior of the house. At the front of the house, two gates led into the yard, with a circular mound between them. A woodhouse, a smokehouse, and a barn stood on the grounds. Stanton provided her children with a variety of play equipment including swings, bars, a trapeze, and ladders, both in the yard and in the barn. Both Henry and Elizabeth enjoyed working in the garden. Elizabeth apparently cared for the flowers, while Henry fussed over the fruit trees, which included apple and cherry trees. The cook used the produce from the fruit trees, the vegetable garden, and the grape arbor for meals and for preserving. Several benches stood in the garden as well.

For a further discussion of these features and a suggested layout, see the "Report on the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Homestead Vegetation: The Historical Documentation," by Nancy Gordon, on file at Women's Rights National Historical Park.

Stanton, *Eighty Years and More*

p. 144: "I set the carpenters, painters, paperhangers, and gardeners at work, built a new kitchen and woodhouse...."

p. 145: "Here our residence was on the outskirts of the town, roads very often muddy and no sidewalks most of the way...."

⁷⁰ Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Susan B. Anthony, June 20, 1853, in Stanton & Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*, vol. 2, p. 51.

p. 146: "I...invited their children into our grounds; giving them fruit, of which we had abundance...."

p. 164: "...the three elder brothers...locked up the fourth, Theodore, in the smoke-house.... They summarily kicked out the bars, and, sliding down on the lightning rod, betook themselves to the barn for liberty."

p. 209: "Every time her husband goes away she cuts a door or window. They have only ten doors to lock every night, now."

Correspondence

Elizabeth Cady Staton (ECS) to Elizabeth Smith Miller (ESM), [1846-48] (ECS Collection, Vassar College Library): "...my piazzas & woodhouse [were] whitewashed by a black [man]."

ECS to ESM, April 30, [1850] (ECS Collection, Vassar College Library): "Have you any flower seeds for a body? Especially mignonette. I have never succeeded in raising that flower yet. Henry is busy gardening & I am nearly through house-cleaning."

Daniel Cady to Daniel Cady Stanton (DCS), July 3, 1850 (ECS Collection, Library of Congress): "You speak of a pony—but have you a stable or pasture in which to keep a pony?"

ECS and Henry B. Stanton to DCS and Henry B. Stanton, Jr., undated, probably Fall, 1851 (ECS papers in Theodore Stanton Collection, Douglass Library, Rutgers University): "Our grapes are now ripe, and we are eating them every day."

Henry B. Stanton to DCS and Henry Stanton, February 22, 1852 (ECS Collection, Library of Congress): "... there is plenty of wood in the wood house...."

ECS to ESM, June 20, 1853 (Stanton & Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*, vol. 2, p. 52-53): "Of course I may burst my boiler screaming to boys to come out of the cherry trees....Seated on my front piazza in a big chair...."

Henry B. Stanton to Margaret Livingston Stanton, after 1856 (ECS Collection, Vassar College Library): "... tell Mr. Long, when he comes to the house, that he must draw in plenty of wood so that you will not freeze this cold weather, and must stamp the snow down round the apple trees so that the mice will freeze."

Susan B. Anthony (SBA) to Henry B. Stanton, Jr., and Gerrit Smith Stanton, September 27, 1860 (ECS Collection, Scrapbook 1, Vassar College Library): "...your Mother & Miss Eaton,—each with Wide Awake torch in hand,—took their stand on the circle mound, between the two front gates.... Down marched the Wide-awakes with steady tramp, & strait into the gate in single file they came.... Your Mother & Miss Eaton Waltzed and Polkaed on the piazza while they played...."

Stanton and Blatch, eds., *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*

Vol. 1, p. xv: "[ECS] advised him not to go home and disturb his family, but, as the night was balmy, to lie on one of the benches in her garden."

Blatch and Lutz, *Challenging Years*

p. 4: "An early memory of Seneca Falls is of our garden which covered some ten acres. The cherry trees stand out clearly in my mind, especially two huge trees near the house at the back—a white oxheart and a black. My big brothers, Neil and Kit and Gat, used to climb them, and bring down to their small worshippers baskets of the luscious fruit. In time I took to climbing, and with my skill was connected a most emphatic feminist revolt."

Lawrence, "Who was Elizabeth Cady Stanton? 1815-1902"

Part 1, p. 22: "... built a fine new kitchen, wood-house and several porches...."

Part 1, p. 23: "She...invited the children into her beautiful grounds to play with her boys, and enjoy the swings, parallel and horizontal bars, the trapeze and ladders."

Lawrence, "Elizabeth Cady Stanton: A Sketch"

p. 37: "... in the glorious October sunshine [ECS] walked out to an arbor in the yard and gathered some grapes."

p. 37: "After breakfast she hung a white flag out of her window as a sign to some friends living on the other bank of the river, that it was a daughter. Had it been another boy the flag was to have been red!"

p. 39: "I can remember various kinds of swings that we had in our yard under the trees, bars between trees, and all sorts of apparatus up in the barn for rainy days."

Gerrit Stanton, "How Aged Housekeeper Gave Her All to Cause of Woman's Suffrage"

p. 1: "There were large vegetable gardens in the Stanton place and Miss Willard insisted they should produce the best.... There were quantities of fruit on the place which Miss Willard was constantly canning for future guests to consume."

Room Use

The absence of two wings of the original house makes it difficult to determine the use of the remaining rooms. The evidence does not indicate the original number of rooms. Although it is tempting to place all documented activities in the rooms that remain today, common sense tells us that many of the described areas are missing.

A kitchen and dining room were probably located on the first floor. A parlor and a drawing room mentioned in the evidence may be two different rooms or simply two names for the same room. Drawing rooms and parlors were commonly found on the first floor. The children had their own playroom, which may have been on the first or second floor. Although the baby's cradle was sometimes located in Elizabeth's room, the house also contained a nursery. Perhaps "these two chambers of mine," which Elizabeth mentions in 1856, refers to Elizabeth's room and the nursery. Since Elizabeth describes these rooms as her own, perhaps Henry had his own bedchamber. On the other hand, perhaps Elizabeth used this terminology simply because Henry was away from home so much. The boys slept upstairs, but no reference specifies where the girls slept. The last room mentioned in the evidence is the garret, presumably at the top of the house.

Stanton, *Eighty Years and More*

p. 164: "...the three were imprisoned in a garret with two barred windows."

Correspondence

ECS to DCS, May 2, 1852 (Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*, vol. 2, p. 42): "The boys are upstairs in bed and asleep. I sit in the dining-room alone. Father has gone down town to see if the mail brings any letters for us, and Amelia is in the kitchen mixing bread."

ECS to ESM, May 1, 1853 (Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*, vol. 2, pp. 49-50): "But this dress makes it easier to do all these things—running from cradle to writing-desk, from kitchen to drawing-room, singing lullabies at one moment in the nursery and dear old Tom Moore's ditties the next moment on the piano-stool."

ECS to SBA, June 10, 1856 (Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*, vol. 2, p. 66): “I pace up and down these two chambers of mine like a caged lioness....”

SBA to Henry B. Stanton, Jr., and Gerrit Smith Stanton, September 27, 1860 (ECS Collection, Scrapbook 1, Vassar College Library): “Your Mother produced the two Wide awake lamps from the garret—lamp & candles were set in all the windows.... then the Glee Club was invited into the parlor & regaled with pears and melons.... —it is now 7.30 evening—Maggie, Hattie & Robbie in bed and asleep... and Sadie & I sitting at the parlor table—with nice fire on the hearth—Sadie playing with the Cards—& I writing to Kitt & Gatt.”

ECS to Antoinette Louisa Brown Blackwell, March 12, [1861?] (Blackwell Family Papers, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe): “Just as soon as I can summon the courage to enter my cold garret [illegible] the trunks of [illegible] clothing you shall have all that remains of my Baby wardrobe.”

Lawrence “Who Was Elizabeth Cady Stanton? 1815-1902”

Part 2, p. 4: “She had great powers of concentration, and wrote many of her best speeches sitting in the big playroom of her children.”

Furniture and Accessories

Most of the objects mentioned in the evidence are not associated with a particular room. The evidence does indicate that the parlor contained a hearth, a parlor table, and at least two chairs. Playing cards, stationery, and writing implements were used in the parlor as well. If the Stantons brought their furniture with them from Boston, their dining room in Seneca Falls contained a round table. Stanton commonly covered her table with a “clean cloth of a pretty pattern.” An easy chair stood in the dining room and presumably several chairs around the table. The kitchen held the cook stove and possibly the “most approved cook books” that Stanton claimed to own. Since Stanton wrote many letters and speeches in her children’s playroom, that room must have been equipped with a writing table, a chair, and writing equipment. The playroom certainly contained the children’s books and toys, and possibly the baby carriages when they were not pressed into service out of doors. The playroom may have also contained a couch for Stanton’s frequent cat naps. Upstairs, Elizabeth’s two chambers contained a bed, a wardrobe, and a cradle or a crib. The boys may have occupied more than one bedroom upstairs, although it is not known how the allotment of sleeping space changed with the addition of each new child. Elizabeth used the chairs in each boy’s room to hold his clean clothes for the following day. Each child probably kept toys and books in his or her

room. In the garret, Elizabeth stored old clothes in trunks, lamps, and naughty boys.

Other objects cannot be placed in the house as easily. Stanton's dishes, silver, bowls, tumblers, and other dining and cooking accoutrements were probably divided between the dining room and the kitchen. The evidence does not indicate clearly where Stanton's desk stood, although Stanton may have had several desks and tables supplied with writing implements throughout the house. Similarly, Stanton's books were probably not confined to one room in the house. Stanton's piano, piano stool, guitar, and music books were probably located in a room where the family could gather and listen to her play, perhaps in the parlor or drawing room. A bureau and a dumb stove were probably located in one of the upstairs chambers. Elizabeth also had a box of homeopathic medicines stored somewhere in the house. Depending on which side of the family Elizabeth favored, she may or may not have had any rocking chairs in the house. Although her father Daniel Cady claimed that "no sane brain could rock," Elizabeth's mother kept a little white bamboo and reed rocking chair in her bedroom.

Henry had a collection of engraved and photographed portraits of great men, which were framed and hung on a wall in the house. Henry also had a watch that he presumably carried during the day.

Finally, the Stanton house possessed at least two bells—a doorbell and a dinner bell.

Stanton, *Eighty Years and More*

p. 137: "My dining table was round, always covered with a clean cloth of a pretty pattern and a centerpiece of flowers in their season, pretty dishes, clean silver, and set with neatness and care." Although this passage was written concerning ECS's home in Boston, it is likely that these early habits remained with ECS after she moved to Seneca Falls.

p. 146: "I lent the men papers to read.... I was their physician, also—with my box of homeopathic medicines I took charge of the men, women, and children in sickness."

Correspondence

ECS to ESM, February 10, 1851 (ECS Collection, Library of Congress): "...sat by the table writing several letters."

ECS and Henry B. Stanton to DCS and Henry B. Stanton, Jr., undated (prob. Fall 1851) (ECS papers, Theodore Stanton Collection, Douglass Library, Rutgers University): "... tell her I found her little boy's six cents in the Bureau drawer...."

ECS to ESM, October 22, 1852 (ECS Collection, Vassar College Library): "Well the sitz bath has never come & if it is not too late just countermand the order as I do not need it now."

ECS to ESM, May 1, 1853 (Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*, vol. 2, p. 50): "... running from cradle to writing-desk,...singing...ditties the next moment on the piano-stool."

ECS to ESM, June 20, 1853 (Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*, vol. 2, pp. 52-3): "I have been enjoying Mrs. Child's sketch of Madame de Stael."

ECS to ESM, September 30, 1853 (Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*, vol. 2, pp. 53-4): "...I continued until my little closet and every available bowl and tumbler in the house were filled.... The spoons and tables, the knobs of the doors...were all more or less sticky."

ECS to ESM, March 1856 (ECS Collection, Vassar College Library): "If you have eggs for breakfast tomorrow tell Charles he must not put the shells in the dish. If he does it when he comes here I shall take each shell out carefully with the sugar tongs & put them in the slop bowl & give him a withering look."

ECS to SBA, June 10, 1856 (Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*, vol. 2, p. 66): "... promenading the precious contents of a little crib in the corner of the room."

Henry B. Stanton to Margaret Livingston Stanton, after 1856 (copy of letter in Alma Lutz Collection, Vassar College Library): "Tell me...whether Mary Leary plays blind-man's buff with her hoops on;—and if she does, whether the young judge still dodges under the table every time she comes around."

ECS to SBA, July 15, [1859] (ECS Collection, Vassar College Library): "Mary went into the factory as she was tired revolving round the cook stove."

ECS to ESM, September 1, 1859 (ECS Collection, Library of Congress): "Then I made all the beds.... I wrote three letters and read several chapters of 'L'Amour' by Michelet."

SBA to Henry B. Stanton, Jr., and Gerrit Smith Stanton, September 27, 1860 (Scrapbook 1, ECS Collection, Vassar College Library): “Your Mother produced the two Wide awake lamps from the garret—lamp & candles were set in all the windows.... Sadie & I sitting at the parlor table...Sadie playing with the cards—& I writing to Kitt & Gatt.”

ECS to Gerrit Smith, April 3, 1863 (Gerrit Smith Papers, George Arents Research Library, Syracuse University): “If the interest on that mortgage is due I should like \$100 as I promised to pay for Henry’s watch the 1st of this month.... I am selling out here & expect to move to N.Y. the 1st of May.”

ECS to Gerrit Smith, April 20, 1863 (Gerrit Smith Papers, George Arents Research Library, Syracuse University): “I shall invest it immediately in parlor carpets.” (Although this letter refers to the Stanton House in New York City, it may indicate that Stanton was accustomed to having carpets in her parlors.)

ECS to Elizabeth Cady Stanton II, June 16, 1882 (copy of letter in Alma Lutz Collection, Vassar College Library): In this letter, ECS tells her son Theodore that she is sending her granddaughter a dozen silver spoons given to her as a bride 42 years before. The spoons are engraved with the initials ECS and thus are marked for Theodore’s daughter. ECS goes on to say that “all the good and great people who have enjoyed our hospitality have supped...from these spoons.... Bye & bye you will enjoy thinking of your grandmother’s wedding day when all the shining silver were displayed to admiring eyes & the little spoons in their midst.”

Ledger, Pontius & Barton, Seneca Falls, 1848 (Seneca Falls Historical Society)

p. 21:

Mr. Foot (Stanton)	
To 1 S.F. Dumb Stove	6.75
“ 1 [ornament?]	.19
“ 13 Russia pipe	2.44
“ Extra for elbow	.13
“ Common elbow	.38
“ 21 S. Iron for P. stove	5.25
“ [Ornaments?] & rods	.63
“ Balance on Castings	.76

Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*

Vol. 1, p. xiv: “Our earliest and most vivid memory of our mother is of her at work at her desk....”

Vol. 1, p. xv: "She led him into the dining room, told him to sit down in an easy chair...."

Vol. 1, p. xv: "Reading in bed was sometimes indulged in, but letters and documents were produced at her writing table."

Blatch and Lutz, *Challenging Years*

p. 4: "My mother longed to be done playing the part of 'satellite of the dinner-pot and cradle.'"

p. 4: "...she skipped round and round her mother's room in a great all-embracing circle of which my cradle was the very hub."

p. 18. Although in this passage Harriot is describing her grandmother's room in Johnstown, the remarks may have some bearing on the way ECS furnished her own home in Seneca Falls.

...I loved to stand and watch her smooth and smooth her black silk stockings as she sat swaying in the little white bamboo and reed rocking chair. This, by the way, was the only rocking chair in the Cady house, in fact in the houses of the various branches of the family. It was a tradition with us that nice people did not rock. My grandfather, Daniel Cady, even went so far as to hold that no sane brain could rock....

p. 35: "Our dining table was a platform for debate...."

Lawrence, "Elizabeth Cady Stanton: A Sketch"

pp. 23-4: "...I had all the most approved Cook books...."

p. 36: "...sang and played on piano and guitar...."

p. 38: "Suddenly she would be so overcome with sleep that she couldn't keep her eyes open for another minute. So she'd lie down on the couch...."

p. 41: "...while the third sat on a little stool...."

Margaret Stanton Lawrence, "Elizabeth Cady Stanton and The First Woman's Rights Convention"

p. 4: "...one of my father's delights was to stand us up on a table and teach us how to make a speech."

Stanton, "How Aged Housekeeper Gave Her All to Cause of Woman's Suffrage"

p. 1: "[The Stanton house] was just the place for 'advanced thinkers' to gather without being disturbed, express their views while partaking of the Stanton viands by day and calmly reposing in the Stanton beds at night."

p. 1: "...sitting under the shady trees of the Stanton estate, while waiting for the dinner bell to ring. The writer's recollections of his early life at the Stanton home were rooms full of people and no vacant chairs in the dining room."

Stanton, "Reminiscences"

p. 79: "... she went to her wardrobe and with a pair of scissors cut off every long skirt she had."

Anonymous, "Elizabeth Cady Stanton: Some Reminiscences of her Family Life, at Seneca Falls, N.Y., by an Old Acquaintance"

p. 3: "So I rang the bell with a beating heart, and when she came to the door..."

Alma Lutz, Miscellaneous Notes, Alma Lutz Collection, Vassar College Library

A note labeled "Stanton 1855" states that Henry B. Stanton was fond of his collection of engraved or photographed portraits of great men of all times and countries, which were framed and hung in groups on the wall. Another note with the same label states that Henry B. Stanton would place his son Theodore on the piano and act out law cases in front of him.

Child Care

Evidence indicates that the Stantons provided their children with a wide variety of toys and recreational equipment. Both Elizabeth and Henry brought home marbles, rubber balls, and other toys for the boys. The boys also played with such violent toys as a functioning cannon and [fire]crackers. Lucretia Mott sent a doll for Margaret in 1852. The older children had plenty of books, a billiard table, and equipment for playing checkers, chess, and card games. The babies, propped up in their carriages by pillows and quilts, were entertained with various strings and bells. Sometimes Elizabeth persuaded the older children to wheel the younger ones around the yard in their carriages. Elizabeth also required the older boys to wear specially made white suits while serving meals to their parents and houseguests.

Stanton, *Eighty Years and More*

p. 146: "... my children's old clothes, books, and toys."

Correspondence

ECS to ESM, July 2, 1851 (ECS Collection, Vassar College Library): "I'll tell you how he sits now, in his carriage, comfortable behind him, pillow before him. A tiny tape is tied to the top, a bell is tied to the top also, hanging down about two fingers from the top. He has the long tape in his hands which he plays with just as a kitten does with a string, every little while he knocks the bell, then he looks steadily at it until it is perfectly still. Then he is tired of bell & string & I must invent some other position."

Henry B. Stanton to Daniel C. Stanton and Henry B. Stanton, Jr., February 22, 1852 (ECS Collection, Library of Congress): "I carried Gerrit some marbles and an India-rubber ball."

Lucretia Mott to ECS, November 27, 1852 (ECS papers, Theodore Stanton Collection, Douglass Library, Rutgers University): "... one of the girls dressed a doll, which I secured immediately for thy 'noble girl'..."

ECS to Henry B. Stanton, Jr. [1852?] (ECS Collection, Library of Congress): "I intend to buy some of the largest marbles I can find for you and Neil."

ECS to Susan B. Anthony, November 2, 1857 (ECS papers, Theodore Stanton Collection, Douglass Library, Rutgers University): "Shall I fire off my boys' cannon and a bundle of crackers...."

ECS to ESM, September 1, 1859 (ECS Collection, Library of Congress): "...I arose in the morning and bathed and dressed Hattie and the baby. After breakfast, put baby to sleep."

Lawrence, "Who Was Elizabeth Cady Stanton? 1815-1902"

Part 2, p. 12: "While the nurses were busy laundering the babies' clothes, mother paid the older boys to wheel us younger children about our spacious grounds in our carriages."

Lawrence, "Elizabeth Cady Stanton: A Sketch"

p. 39: "They had a billiard table for the older boys.... We were all taught checkers, chess, and every kind of a card game, my mother was a fine chess player herself."

p. 40: "The servant question was rampant in those days as now, and as she entertained distinguished people frequently and didn't want her older boys at table and desired her meals well served, she had her sons all trained to wait on

table. They had white suits, were paid for their services, and took great pride in doing it to the best of their ability.”

Food and Cooking

Although Elizabeth Cady Stanton employed full-time household help, she remained intimately involved in the kitchen activities, especially during canning and preserving season. The Stanton property provided fruit and vegetables used in making jellies, quinces, and pies. The Stantons enjoyed a wide variety of fresh produce, including cherries, grapes, apples, strawberries, pears, melons, and squash. Breakfast sometimes consisted of boiled eggs, bread, butter, and coffee, although tea and chocolate were also served at the Stanton house. Turkeys were cooked when Elizabeth expected company, the children were encouraged to eat liver, and young people were given cake and water as refreshments when they came to the Stanton house for a dance.

Stanton, *Eighty Years and More*

p. 152: “... give them a glass of water and some cake.”

Correspondence

ECS to ESM, [n.d., prob. 1846-48] (ECS Collection, Vassar College Library): “I can give Charles boiled eggs bread & butter & coffee....”

ECS to ESM, July 2, 1851 (ECS Collection, Vassar College Library): “We have been feasting on strawberries.”

ECS to ESM, June 20, 1853 (Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*, vol. 2, pp. 52-3): “...be hung for breaking the pate of some stupid Hibernian for burning my meat or pudding....”

ECS to ESM, September 30, 1853 (Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*, vol. 2, pp. 53-4): “Such jellies, such quinces—a magnificent array of fruits standing in solemn silence....”

Henry B. Stanton to Margaret Livingston Stanton [n.d., after 1856] (copy in Alma Lutz Collection, Vassar College Library): “Tell me...whether Gat gets any liver to eat while I am gone....”

ECS to ESM, September 1, 1859 (ECS Collection, Library of Congress): “I next went into the kitchen and made thirteen squash pies.”

ECS to SBA, December 23, 1859 (Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*, vol. 2, pp. 74-5): "...we cooked a turkey, I made a pie in the morning...."

SBA to Henry B. Stanton, Jr., and Gerrit Smith Stanton, September 27, 1860 (Scrapbook 1, ECS Collection, Vassar College Library): "...then the Glee Club was invited into the parlor & regaled with pears and melons...."

ECS to Elizabeth Cady Stanton II, June 16, 1882 (copy in Alma Lutz Collection, Vassar College Library): "All the good & great people who have enjoyed our hospitality have supped their chocolate, coffee, & [tea] from these spoons. Your mother when she was in America ate currants (of which she was fond) & 'Yankee ice cream' as she called it with these spoons."

Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*

Vol. 1, p. xv: "...gave him a cup of black coffee."

Clothes and Sewing

The evidence tells us more about the children's clothing than the adults' in the Stanton household. Elizabeth sewed and mended clothes for her children, including cotton flannel drawers, coats, and red flannel nightshirts. The red flannel nightshirts were worn in the winter over cotton nightshirts for extra warmth. Stanton laid the boys' clothes out on chairs in their rooms every night. A suit of brown or blue material was laid on the chair, with stockings on the chair rounds and freshly polished shoes underneath. The boys also had white suits that they wore when serving dinner for company. The younger children wore aprons over their clothes to keep them from getting too soiled.

One of Elizabeth's bloomer costumes was described as a black satin frock cut off at the knees, with turkish trousers, and a double *broche* shawl, topped with a large bonnet. Various documents over the years mention Elizabeth's shoes and stockings, her muff box, veil, truss, and hats. Elizabeth was also famous for knitting "cracks," or "crackovans" (a warm bedroom shoe), for her friends and family.

Correspondence

Henry B. Stanton to ECS, March 3, [1844] (copy in Alma Lutz Collection, Vassar College Library): "Mr. Childs is going to Albany Monday. He will take your muff box, liberty bell, hat, veil, & truss." Although this letter predates the Seneca Falls house, this reference indicates some common personal accoutrements owned by ECS.

ECS to ESM, [1846-48] (ECS Collection, Vassar College Library): “My shoes were blackened up by a white man....”

ECS to Henry B. Stanton, Jr. [1852] (ECS Collection, Library of Congress): “I have made some cotton flannel drawers for you and Neil, two new coats each and two heavy red flannel nightshirts to wear over your cotton ones.”

ECS to ESM, May 1, 1853 (Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*, vol. 2, p. 49): “I have finished Charley’s ‘cracks.’ I hesitate about sewing on the soles. My boots would furnish a model which is too small, while Henry’s would be too large.” In a footnote, Stanton and Blatch explain that “cracks” was short for crackovans, “a warm bedroom shoe which Mrs. Stanton knit for friends to the end of her life.”

ECS to SBA, June 30, 1859 (ECS Collection, Library of Congress): “The summer’s sewing all done....”

ECS to ESM, September 1, 1859 (ECS Collection, Library of Congress): “While the baby was taking his afternoon nap, I mended a basket full of clothes....”

ECS to SBA, December 23, 1859 (Stanton and Blatch, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton as Revealed*, vol. 2, pp. 74-5): “...put clean aprons on the children....”

ECS to Martha C. Wright, December 22, 1861 (ECS Collection, Library of Congress): “... put clean aprons on the smaller children....”

ECS to Antoinette Louisa Brown Blackwell, March 12, [1861] (Blackwell family papers, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe): “... you shall have all that remains of my Baby wardrobe.”

Lawrence, “Elizabeth Cady Stanton: A Sketch”

pp. 23-4: “I tried, too, to give an artistic touch to everything—the dress of myself, children and servants included.”

p. 38: “...you can take my shoes and stockings off....”

p. 39: “She...was always well dressed herself, had a way of putting on her clothes that was individual: the clothes of each child were laid carefully on a chair to air every night. She laid a clean suit of washable blue or brown material on each boy’s chair, with clean, well darned stocking on the rounds of the chair, and the shoes, freshly blacked, stood side by side underneath.”

p. 40: "...her sons...had white suits...."

Riegel, "Women's Rights and other "Reforms" in Seneca Falls"

p. 55: "Imagine her [ECS] then in a full black satin frock cut off at the knee, with Turkish trowsers of the same material, her wrap a double *broche* shawl, and on her head the hideous great bonnet then in fashion."

Physical Evidence of Original Furnishings

This section lists objects supposedly owned by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and their locations. Stanton may have acquired some of the objects after she left Seneca Falls.

Objects Located at Women's Rights National Historical Park

After the following inventory of Stanton property at the park was compiled, Stanton's great-granddaughter, Rhoda Barney Jenkins, loaned these objects:

- a book of piano music

- two additional fancy chairs to match the two already on loan to the park

- two additional books

- a bas relief medallion illustrating the profile of Rosa Bonheur by David

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service
(Service)

INVENTORY OF PROPERTY

I CERTIFY that I have made or caused to be made a physical inventory of all of the property for which I am accountable and that the articles listed on sheets 1 to 6, inclusive, were on hand at close of business on March 4, 1986 at Woman's Rights National Historical Park
(Date) (Location)

Superintendent

(Signature)

(Initials)

QUANTITY	PROPERTY No.	DESCRIPTION	VALUE	CONDITION
1	1	Meridienne	500 00	COM/GD
1	2	Desk	450 00	COM/GD
1	3	Chair, "Fancy"	50 00	COM/FR
1	4	Chair, "Fancy"	50 00	COM/FR
		Waverly Novels 28 Volumes Cat.#S-32 \$100/set		
1	5	Book, <u>The Abbot</u> Vol. XX		COM/FR
1	6	Book, <u>The Abbot</u> Vol. XXI		COM/FR
1	7	Book, <u>Black Dwarf</u> , Vol. IX		COM/FR
1	8	Book, <u>Black Dwarf</u> , Vol. X		COM/FR
1	9	Book, <u>Bride of Lammermoor</u> , Vol. XIII		COM/FR
1	10	Book, <u>Bride of Lammermoor</u> , Vol. XIV		COM/FR
1	11	Book, <u>Fortunes of Nigel</u> , Vol. XXVI		COM/FR
1	12	Book, <u>Fortunes of Nigel</u> , Vol. XXVII		COM/FR
1	13	Book, <u>Heart of Mid-Lothian</u> , Vol. XI		COM/FR
1	14	Book, <u>Heart of Mid-Lothian</u> , Vol. XI		COM/FR
1	15	Book, <u>Ivanhoe</u> , Vol. XVI		COM/FR-GD
1	16	Book, <u>Ivanhoe</u> , Vol. XVII		COM/FR-GD
1	17	Book, <u>Kenil Worth</u> , Vol. XXII		COM/FR-GD
1	18	Book, <u>Kenil Worth</u> , Vol. XXIII		COM/FR

INVENTORY OF PROPERTY

SHEET NO. 2

Continuation Sheet

QUANTITY	PROPERTY NO.	DESCRIPTION	VALUE	CONDITION
1	19	Book, A Legend of Montrose, Vol. XV		COM/FR
1	20	Book, The Monastery, Vol. XVIII		COM/FR
1	21	Book, The Monastery, Vol. XIX		COM/FR
1	22	Book, Peveril of the Peak, Vol. XXVIII		COM/FR
1	23	Book, Peveril of the Peak, Vol. XXIX		COM/FR
1	24	Book, Peveril of the Peak, Vol. XXX		COM/FR
1	25	Book, Quentin Durward, Vol. XXXI		COM/FR
1	26	Book, Quentin Durward, Vol. XXXII		COM/FR
1	27	Book, Redgauntlet, Vol. XXV		COM/FR
1	28	Book, Redgauntlet, Vol. XXVI		COM/FR
1	29	Book, Rob Roy, Vol. VII		COM/FR
1	30	Book, Rob Roy, Vol. VIII		COM/FR
1	31	Book, St. Roman's Well, Vol. XXXII		COM/FR
1	32	Book, St. Roman's Well, Vol. XXXIV		COM/FR
1	33	Book, The Wandering Jew, Vol. I	10 00 set of 3	COM/VPR
1	34	Book, The Wandering Jew, Vol. II		COM/VPR
1	35	Book, The Wandering Jew, Vol. III		COM/VPR
1	36	Book, History of U.S. of A	8 00	INC/FR
1	37	Book, Specimens of Am. Poetry, Vol. I		COM/FR
1	38	Book, Specimens of Am. Poetry, Vol. II		COM/FR
1	39	Book, Specimens of Am. Poetry, Vol. III		COM/FR
1	40	Book, The Letters of Junius, Vol. I	10 00	COM/FR
1	41	Book, Works of J. Swift, Vol. X		COM/FR
1	42	Book, British Anthology, Vol. VII		COM/FR
1	43	Book, The Chaulet	5 00	INC/FR
1	44	Book, Essays	6 00	COM/FR

INVENTORY OF PROPERTY

Continuation Sheet

SHEET NO. 3

QUANTITY	PROPERTY NO.	DESCRIPTION	VALUE	CONDITION
1	45	Book, Political Works of O. Goldsmith	9 00	COM/PR
1	46	Book, Poems by John G. Whittier	20 00	COM/PR
1	47	Book, Considerations on Rep. Govt.	25 00	COM/FR
1	48	Book, John Wollman's Journal	10 00	COM/GD
1	49	Book, Man Versus the State	6 00	COM/FR
1	50	Book, Collection of Novels		COM/FR
1	51	Book, Two Years Ago, Vol. I \$10/2 vnl		COM/PR
1	52	Book, Two Years Ago, Vol. II		COM/PR
1	53	Book, Adams Administration		INC/VPR
1	54	Book, The Seasons	16 00	
1	55	Book, Oxford's Junior Speaker		COM/PR
1	56	Book, Masnolia for 1836	4 00	COM/FR
1	57	Book, Adam Bede	10 00	COM/FR
1	58	Book, My Experiences of War, Voli \$5/set pf 2		COM/FR
1	59	Book, My Experiences of War, Voli		COM/FR
1	60	Book, Fireside Travels	5 00	COM/FR
1	61	Book, The Pathfinder, Voli	10 00	COM/FR
1	62	Book, Ernest Maltravers, Voli	10 00	COM/FR
1	63	Book, Works of Edmund Burke, Voli Vol. I	25 00/	COM/Good
1	64	Book, Works of Edmund Burke, Voli, Vol.II set of		COM/Good
1	65	Book, Works of Edmund Burke, Voli, Vol.III	3	COM/FR
1	66	Book, I Will Be A Lady	8 00	COM/FR
1	67	Book, Hoyle's Games	4 00	COM/PR
1	68	Book, Memoirs	25 00	COM/FR
1	69	Book, Data of Ethics	8 00	COM/GD
1	70	Book, Histoire De La Revolution	10 00	COM/GD

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INVENTORY OF PROPERTY

Continuation Sheet

SHEET NO. 4

QUANTITY	PROPERTY No.	DESCRIPTION	VALUE	CONDITION
1	71	Book, Oures De Dumas	3 00	COM/FR
1	72	Book, Decorum	4 00	COM/GD
1	73	Book, Longfellow's Poems, Vol. II	8 00	COM/FR
1	74	Book, History of Independence Hall	12 00	COM/FR
1	75	Book, Ballad of Reading Goal	5 00	COM/GD
1	76	Book, Ballad of Reading Goal	5 00	COM/GD
1	77	Book, Second Reader		COM/FR
1	78	Book, Third Reader		COM/FR
1	79	Book, A Grammar		
1	80	Book, Fors Clarigera	5 00	COM/FR
1	261	Books, Homes Abroad		COM/FR
1	262	Book, My Study Windows		COM/FR
1	263	Book, Alexander the Great		COM/FR
1	264	Book, Days of Ancient Rome		COM/FR
1	265	Book, History of Reign of Charles V		COM/FR
1	266	Book, The Lost Arts		COM/FR
1	267	Book, Alice, Vol. I		COM/FR
1	268	Book, English Prose Works		COM/FR
1	269	Book, The Works of Dr. J. Swift		COM/FR
1	270	Book, The Works of Dr. J. Swift, Vol. II		COM/FR
1	271	Book, The Works of Dr. J. Swift, Vol. III		COM/FR
1	272	Book, The Works of Dr. J. Swift, Vol. IV		COM/FR
1	273	Book, The Works of Dr. J. Swift, Vol. V		COM/FR
1	274	Book, The Works of Dr. J. Swift, Vol. VI		COM/FR
1	275	Book, The Works of Dr. J. Swift, Vol. VII		COM/FR
1	276	Book, The Works of Dr. J. Swift, Vol. VIII		COM/FR

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INVENTORY OF PROPERTY

Continuation Sheet

5
SHEET NO. _____

QTY	PROPERTY No.	DESCRIPTION	VALUE	CONDITION
1	277	Book, The Works of J. Swift, vol. IX		COM/FR
1	278	Book, The Works of J. Swift, vol. XI		COM/FR
1	279	Book, The Works of J. Swift, vol. XII		COM/FR
1	280	Book, The Works of J. Swift, vol. XIII		COM/FR
1	281	Book, The Works of J. Swift, vol. XIV		COM/FR
1	282	Decanter, cut glass, with stopper		COM/GD
1	283	Bronze cast, hands of E.C.S. & S.B.A.		COM/EX
1	284	Coverlet		COM/GD
1	285	Lace Collar		COM/GD
2	286	Lace handkerchief borders		COM/GD
1	287	Lace Tie		COM/GD
1	288	Bridal Shawl, Lace		COM/GD
1	289	Lace Collar (maltese)		COM/GD
1	290	Lace Fichu		COM/GD
1	291	Lace tie		COM/GD
1		27 pieces Elizabeth Cadv Stanton China		
1	292	Vegetable dish, oval		INC/FR
1	293	Vegetable dish, oval shell		COM/GD
1	294	Platter, small		COM/GD
1	295	Saucer		COM/GD
1	296	Teacup		INC/PR
1	297	Salad Plate		COM/FR
1	298	Salad Plate		COM/GD
1	299	Salad Plate		COM /FR
1	300	Cake Plate		COM/FR
1	301	Cake Plate		COM/FR

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INVENTORY OF PROPERTY

Continuation Sheet

SHEET NO. 6

QTY	PROPERTY No.	DESCRIPTION	VALUE	CONDITION
1	302	Bowl, small		COM/FR
1	303	Bowl, small		COM/GD
1	304	Luncheon plate		INC/FR
1	305	Luncheon plate		INC/FR
1	306	Luncheon plate		INC/FR
1	307	Luncheon Plate		INC/FR
1	308	Luncheon Plate		INC/PR
1	309	Luncheon Plate		INC/PR
1	310	Luncheon Plate		COM/FR
1	311	Luncheon Plate		INC/PR
1	312	Soup Plate		COM/GD
1	313	Soup Plate		COM/GD
1	314	Soup Plate		COM/GD
1	315	Soup Plate		COM/GD
1	316	Soup Plate		COM/GD
1	317	Soup Plate		COM/FR
1	318	Soup Plate		INC/FR
1	319	Armchair		COM/GD
1	386	Book, Life and Writings of A. Bloomer		COM/PR
1	387	Photograph, b & w, O. & A. Bloomer		COM/EX
1	388	Photograph, b & w, A. Bloomer		COM/EX
1	389	Drawing, pen and ink, "Bloomer House"		COM/EX
1	390	Photograph, b & w, D. Bloomer		COM/EX

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Objects in Family Possession

Rhoda Jenkins, of Greenwich, Connecticut, Elizabeth Cady Stanton's great-granddaughter, owns the following Stanton objects:

set of hexagonal china

Greek Testaments

collection of family photos

some fans and part of a costume (may not have belonged to Elizabeth Cady Stanton)¹

Catherine E. Stanton, of Melbourne, Florida, is Elizabeth Cady Stanton's great-great-granddaughter. She owns an oval gold brooch containing a lock of Stanton's white hair surrounded by small pearls.²

Other Stanton Objects

The Seneca Falls Historical Society owns several objects with a Stanton attribution. Local tradition holds that a rocking chair, a pine chest, a drop-front desk, and a pair of painted window shades now in the Historical Society were once located in the Stanton home in Seneca Falls.

An armchair with sausage turnings is owned and exhibited by the National Women's Party at their headquarters in the Sewall-Belmont House in Washington, D.C. Records indicate that the chair was donated by the (now disbanded) Seneca Falls Committee of the National Women's Party.

Judith Wellman mentions a pump in "Stanton's House: Some Thoughts." The pump is currently owned by T.J. Casamassima of Washington Street, in Seneca Falls, and supposedly came from the Stanton property.³

Objects Uncovered During Archeological Excavations

The following information was condensed from the draft archeological report on the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House, on file at Women's Rights NHP.

Archeologists uncovered coins, buttons, ceramic sherds, and other miscellaneous objects during various excavations on the historic Stanton property. Of the 11 coins found, two were issued during the period of Stanton's occupation, a large one cent piece dated 1855 and an 1859 Indian head penny. Other coins

1 Rhoda Jenkins to Carol Petravage, April 14, 1986, Women's Rights National Historical Park files.

2 Catherine E. Stanton to Carol Petravage, June 9, 1986, Women's Rights National Historical Park files.

3 Judith Wellman, "Stanton's House: Some Thoughts," p. 5, copy in Women's Rights National Historical Park files.

found included an 1813 half dollar, another large one cent piece dating to 1835, and six additional Indian head pennies. Most of the buttons recovered could have dated from the Stanton period. Although most were porcelain or shell, metal, rubber, and glass buttons were also retrieved.

Ten percent of the ceramics recovered were of types popular during the Stanton period. These included:

- light blue transfer printed pearlware and whiteware

- large rectangular platter with a geometric scroll rim and several plate rims with an almost identical design (probably a set)

- three different patterns of hand-painted floral designs on thin whiteware teacups and saucers

- three sherds of hand-painted underglaze oriental porcelain yellowware

- lead-glazed redware

- annular decoration whiteware

- salt-glazed stoneware

- ironstone plates and saucers

- porcelain (mostly thick and undecorated)

Two other objects were discovered that date to the Stanton period. One is a woman's adjustable 14 kt. gold ring with three mine cut diamonds dating to the 1860s. The second is a temperance medallion, 1-1/8" in diameter, which is inscribed on one side with "To commemorate the passage of the prohibitory Liquor Law" and on the other side with "State of New York/No Repeal/July 4, 1855."

Physical Evidence Discovered During Architectural Examinations

Physical evidence for wall and floor coverings is documented in the 1983 Draft Historic Structure Report on the Stanton House written by Barbara Pearson. Most rooms are currently papered with wall coverings exactly reproduced from period papers uncovered in the house. Tacks were found along the perimeters of the floors in several downstairs rooms. Fragments of cotton fiber found underneath these tacks indicate the presence of floor coverings. The park has installed white and yellow floorcloths in these rooms to indicate an appropriate floor treatment that corresponds to the available physical evidence.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1. Elizabeth Cady Stanton in her New York City apartment, c.1900. Original photo owned by Rhoda Barney Jenkins and John Barney. Copies on file at Women's Rights National Historical Park.

The armchair seen in the photo is owned by Rhoda Barney Jenkins and John Barney and is on loan to Women's Rights National Historical Park.



Figure 2. Elizabeth Cady Stanton in her New York City apartment, c.1900. Original photo owned by Rhoda Barney Jenkins and John Barney. Copies on file at Women's Rights National Historical Park.

The armchair seen in the photo is owned by Rhoda Barney Jenkins and John Barney and is on loan to Women's Rights National Historical Park.



Figure 3. Elizabeth Cady Stanton in her New York City apartment, c.1900. Original photo owned by Rhoda Barney Jenkins and John Barney. Copies on file at Women's Rights National Historical Park.

The settee seen in the photo is owned by Rhoda Barney Jenkins and John Barney and is on loan to Women's Rights National Historical Park.



Figure 4. Interior of Seneca Falls Historical Society, date unknown.

This view of the old Seneca Falls Historical Society shows the painted window shades attributed to the Stanton House. The spool turned armchair is probably the same chair now owned by the National Women's Party.



BULLOCK STUDIO
STATE FILES

Figure 5. Armchair, National Women's Party Collection, Sewall-Belmont House, Washington, D.C.

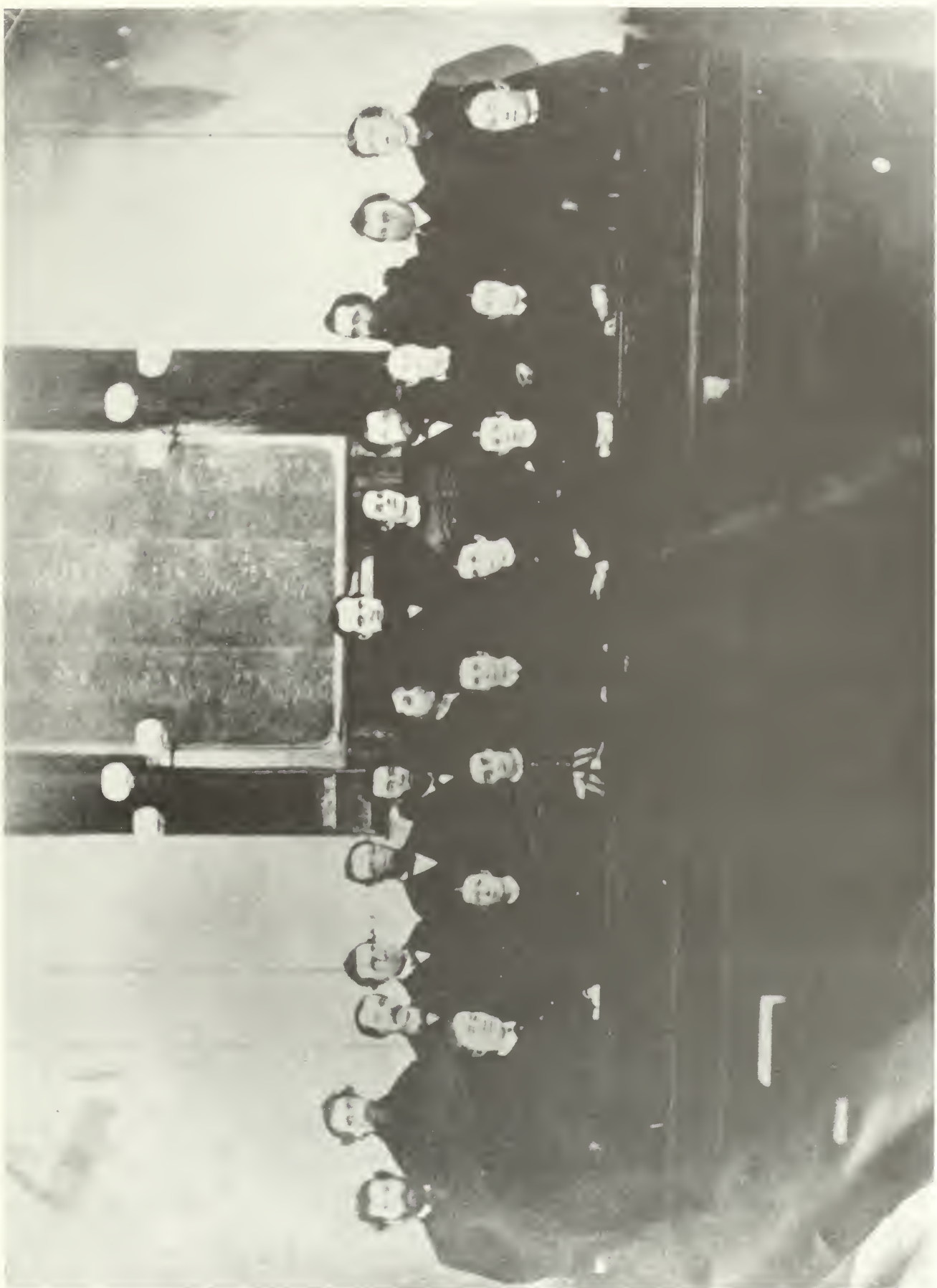
This armchair, said to have been owned by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, was donated by the (now disbanded) Seneca Falls Committee of the National Women's Party.

Figure 6. Table, Smithsonian Institution.

The Declaration of Sentiments was written on this table, which originally stood in the parlor of the McClintock House.



Figure 7. Interior of Old Wesleyan Church with pastor, superintendent, and teachers of the Sabbath School, c.1858. Illustration 7 in "Historic Structure Report, Historical Data Section, Wesleyan Chapel," by Sharon A. Brown.



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